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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: FAIR SOCI OVIP OTRA CASC ML

SUBJECT: MALI TRAVEL ALERT: BAMAKO AIRPORT CLOSURES AND  
LACK OF HOTEL SPACE IN NOVEMBER

¶1. The Community of Democracies Ministerial Conference is scheduled for Bamako, Mali from Nov. 14-17. The Conference is expected to attract between 1500 and 3000 attendees, and visitors are likely to encounter significant difficulties making hotel and flight reservations during this time.

¶2. Additionally, Bamako International Airport will be closed intermittently from October 30 to November 6 for runway repairs. According to the National Civil Aviation Agency, 300 meters of the airport's 2700 meter runway will be closed on October 30-31. The runway will remain open, however, to all aircraft for these two days. On Nov. 1-2 the runway will be closed to all traffic with no landings or take-offs permitted. The airport will reopen 2,250 meters of the runway on Nov. 3-4, limiting access to aircraft weighing less than 40 tons (this would preclude the normally scheduled Air France Flight). The runway will be closed to all traffic once again from Nov. 5-6. According to the Director of Civil Aviation, the airport will return to full capacity on Nov. 7 provided the runway repairs are completed as scheduled.

¶3. We are separately sending CA a draft warden message to inform the local American community  
McCulley